

Herts
 Hash
 House
 Harriers
Herts official Website: hertsHash.co.uk

This is Punxsutawney Phil's ex-wife, Phyllis, who now lives in Florida and said that Phil is a compulsive liar.

Run No. 2139
 Date: Sunday 2nd February 2025
 Venue: The Full House & the Banana Leaf
 Location: Hemel Hempstead
 Beers/Cider: New River Blind Poet; GK Abbot; a few others for the Beerfest
 Hare/s: Mr X
 Runners: 15
 Virgins: 0
 Visitors: 0
 Newies: 0
 Après: o
 Hash Hounds: 0
 Total: 15
 Membership: Gong Hoi Fat Choi! Chinese New Year of the Snake



After a dull Saturday, the Hash gathered under clear, blue skies & without any clouds to obscure the waxing crescent moon, it was clear to see & near to it was Venus shining bright, the old 'Morning Star' [No not that Pebbledash! - Ed]. This month there is a chance, with clear skies, to see six planets aligned, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn & Mars will be visible to the naked eye, where as you will need a telescope to view Uranus [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed] & Neptune! [Random Fact: You can fit 63 Earths inside Uranus, that's a lot of KY from aisle 11! – Ed]

The bright weather went against what Punxsutawney Phil would predict later in day at Gobbler's Knob [Whoa Pebbledash! – Ed] PA, USA, when he saw his own shadow, which is supposed to be a sign of six more weeks of the same weather on Groundhog Day! There is a disclaimer that he doesn't always get the prediction correct!

Anyhow, the Hare & Beermaster were found within the warmth of the 'spoons, a building that was once the local Cinema & later a Bingo Hall. Hemel has a lot to offer, lots of Barbers, Nail Bars & every kind of dining experience you could imagine, if one Takeaway Pizza place has a queue, then you just got to the one next door with a short wait!

Soon it was time for to leave the 'Spoons to join the rest outside the Full House, where the Hare had placed a CHK to one side, just to annoy My Lil' [He has an irrational dislike to CHK points outside of the venue! – Ed]

With both the HGM & GM missing, Paxo stood in & welcomed the Hash to the correct Trail number, then the Hare was called forward to explain what was out there for the Pack. Normal Herts Markings, but there were warnings that it could be slippery out there, due to the heavy overnight frost, but things were warming up as My Lil' bemoaned the fact that his hat was now stowed safely away in Diamond Geezer's car & not on his head. Mr X did advise Juices Flowing that her Nordic Pole maybe handy for a couple of sections of the Trail, in the end it wasn't that bad out there.

Moss Key Toe was the first around the corner on to Combe Street, where after a few yards a Pedestrian Crossing was found, on the opposite side of which arrows pointed westward to run the Hash across the front of the local Police Station. Just beyond this, & over the river Gade, a CHK was found by a Shiggy footpath running along the green edge of the Gade as it flows behind the buildings on the Leighton Buzzard Road.

While Diamond Geezer searched up the river side path, Paxo hung around on the CHK, leaving Moss Key To continue around on to the Leighton Buzzard Road, where it was like a bit of de ja vu as arrows could be seen over at the crossing there.

It took a while before the green man appeared & the now bunched up Pack could cross over to follow on behind Moss Key Toe to head northward, following the Trail off on to the spur road of Bury Road, he would be seen again as he returned from beyond the CHK point by the eastern edge of the Bury Road Allotments.

My Lil' was one of the first up the steeply rising footpath, as he & Juices Flowing followed on behind Moss Key Toe & Diamond Geezer, the Hare was now pleased that underfoot the wet conditions were not a slippery as he had feared, & warned of earlier, as the shaded path was protected for the air frost. It was a 175 Yard before the Hash emerged out on to the elbow of Cemmas Court Road, where a CHK was found.

Mr X was not the only one who now noticed that Parsons Nose was also wearing Texas State Flag Shorts, My Lil' had clocked this. [Just goes to show what great taste Parsons Nose has in his Hashadabery! – Ed] as the search for Trail resumed.

Again Moss Key Toe looked the wrong way, it was now Diamond Geezer's turn to finally pick up the Trail as he headed southward on the gently snaking way to the junction with Collett Road, here the arrows started off along the western side of the road, by the back of the wooded section of Lockers Park School Grounds, but then the Hash had to cross over as the footpath was blocked with a long line of cars parked over the pedestrian right of way.

Once beyond the utility works, double arrows at the junction of Cotterells Hill directed the way to the southwest, for just a short way to cross another Junction where No Eye Deer worried about Doeswhatshe says just walked out in front of the oncoming car, perhaps he really was blinded with the sun in his eyes? It was clearly marked to cross over & continue westward on Lockers Park Lane to reach a CHK by the start of the housing estate & footpath that runs southwest along the outside edge of the Heath Lane Cemetery.

It was around here that Des Res appeared, he stated the week before that he'd have no excuse not to turn out at this Trail, since he lives in Hemel Hempstead. He did say that after a late start he had followed the Trail backwards from where he had stumbled upon it after leaving his house! At least he wasn't going to let on from where he had picked the Trail up, by keeping mum & not give the game away.

Moss Key Toe disappeared to search Hanger Lane, entering this side estate on Park Hill, however it was down to No Eye Deer to pick up the Trail on the alleyway beside the Cemetery. On the 180 Yard trot down to the next CHK on Cornfields, Moss Key Toe was spotted cutting back through from the estate via one of the gaps to the small branches of half a dozen homes each.

The next CHK was rapidly dealt with, as the Hare's mention of possible slippery steps in his 'chalk-talk' kind of gave it away, for straight over from the ginnel were the obvious flight of steps that were of all different lengths & didn't allow anyone to get in to any kind of stride, as the Hare pointed out it was far easier to avoid these by taking the side path on the opposite side of the hand rail.

Out at the bottom of the valley & another CHK was found on Beechfield Road. The Hare arrived & was happy to see that Tent Packer & Diamond Geezer had gone wrong, passing beyond the passageway the Trail was on, as they blindly followed the bend in Crouchfield around from the west to the south. Moss Key Toe & Parsons Nose also went wrong too, it was down to My Lil' spot the green fingerpost footpath sign to pick up the Trail on the slightly obscured passageway off on the bend in Crouchfield, a sneaky little route by the end house to head due west.

Emerging out beyond the Boxmoor Scout Hut a CHK was found on Woodland Close, near to the junction with Gravel Hill Terrace. While some fruitlessly search the southern option, DWSS was among those who searched up on Gravel Hill Terrace, picking up the Trail away to the west.

It would be a 700 Yard trot along this nice urban road, there was supposed to be a diversion off of this, on a footpath running behind the southern side homes, but by this point while setting the Trail the Hare had lost his map [Yes, even Mr X doesn't know every road in Hertfordshire! – Ed].



Mr X now saw where the missed footpath started between two large hazel hedges, after Moss Key Toe came back from it after checking out Trail from a CHK at the top of Green End Road, No Eye Deer also went wrong, as she searched the tree-lined cut-throughs to the north, across the road junction from the CHK.

The Trail would continue toward the west, as the road becomes Ashtree Way, bending its way around to a CHK opposite the large modern Methodist Church on the corner with Northridge Way. Moss Key Toe was lured across the main road by a finger-post sign for a footpath that leads westward in to Jocketts Park, he would not find any Dust over there, as the Trail would be found away down the hillside.

The Pack made their way down by Prince Park, a side road that the footpath the Hare had missed comes out in to, the arrows continued along to a CHK by the third of the eastern side streets, this one being Lower Sales & after a few yards it move straight around on to Benchley's Road, here arrows directed the way on to another back passage that really didn't look like it was a footpath as it was strewn with some discarded clothing.

A 90 degree turn from due east to due south would lead the way on a gentle descent of 1,000 Yards between the back of the homes on Benchleys Road to the west & the larger area of the Chaulden allotments to the east. The Trail emerged out via the allotment entrance & a few nearby garages, then crossed the main road to find a CHK on the corner where Chaulden Lane leaves Northridge Way, near to the Hemel Hempstead Camelot Rugby Club. The Keenies seemed a little confused here, searching everywhere except where the Trail actually was.

The FRBs dithering allowed Juices Flowing, Milf, Paxo & Kylie to catch up, as My Lil' made the decision that the Old Fishery Lane was the way to search & it was down this narrow, old rustic way that the Trail was found, leaving the edge of the Rugby Club & further along to cross the river Bulbourne, moving a few more yards up to a CHK on the western side of the old bridge spanning the adjacent Grand Union Canal.

It was a nice view from the bridge, looking both west & eastward along the towpath busy with walkers. The Hare arrived & was pleased to see that Diamond Geezer & Moss Key Toe had been off on each side to search for Dust, Diamond Geezer then went wrong again as he moved down to the next eastward footpath through the common grazing land, but again no Dust was found there. This left only one option & that was to head further southward to the tunnel through the high railway embankment.

The Hare told No Eye Deer that he had set the Trail this way to keep Kylie happy with the Euston to Milton Keynes railway above, it's ironic that they canal was the main artery of transporting goods between London, Leicester & Birmingham when it was constructed in the early 1810's, only to be superseded the railway line that runs beside the same route in less than 60 Years.

Having passed through one set of gates, then run under the older Railway bridge, the Trail passed beneath the newer A41 Bypass to follow the trail through more gates on the drive that cuts through the Boxmoor common to reach the old London Road, opposite what was the Swan Pub, now an antiques shop.

Arrows directed the whole of the Hash to the east, along London Road to a pedestrian crossing, it was here the Trail would split. With the Hare marking an SC, Paxo was handed a piece of plasterboard to mark the route for Milf, DWSS & Kylie on the Short Cut along London Road. Meanwhile the Keenies were over the crossing & onto the CHK by end of Meadows Way, a short side road with one side lined with homes that are hidden behind the trees along London Road.

The Hare now caught up with Des Res, with Juices Flowing & No Eye Deer also both following on as the last of the Keenies to take to the longer loop. 130 Yards on & the Trail reached the end of side road, where the Trail took to a track off along to the southeast, in the wooded area below the A41 & Roughdown Villas.

It was nice trot along the elongated woodland to reach the next CHK near to an underpass, this did its job & caught out the FRBs who searched under the A41 toward back of Hemel Hempstead Railway Station. The Keenies were not turning back to Hemel just yet, oh no! For the Trail was picked up on the steep set of steps leading up from Roughdown Villas Road & into the main woodland of Roughdown Common.

Having scaled the heights, & now on the level, the Trail turned from due south to head eastward on the wide Shiggy track that winds its way to a narrow bridge spanning the A541 Below. Diamond Geezer & Moss Key Toe weren't fooled by the CHK on the horse mounting block beside the bridge, there was no temptation to look southward, not with the lure of heading down in to Hemel being too great, though once over the bridge Diamond Geezer did take a second look at the stile leading into the Roughdown Nature Reserve to the north of the A41.

Tent Packer was now encouraged to run, as the Hare mentioned that he had personally jiggled the bags of Allsorts around in his local shop [Careful Pebbledash! – Ed] to check that it actually contained Aniseed Buttons. This had no effect on No Eye Deer, who slowed up to walk with Juices Flowing, as she is not enamoured by the Aniseed buttons.

The Track turned with an elbow in its course & crossed a bridge over the railway once more, where a 200 Yards descent of Roughdown Road would bring the FRBs out on to the London Road. Arrows pointed the way over to the north side of the three-way junction [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed] & these would move the Pack along to the north-eastern arm of Station Road, crossing the Bullbourne & then to a CHK before the Bridge over the Grand union Canal.

The Trail followed the rising road up over the canal, then dropped down the steps to reach Blackbirds Moor, following the cinder like path as comes around the front of St John the Evangelist (Boxmoor) Church. Just by the end of the short Heath Lane the Knitting Circle were found at the Held CHK & Sweets Stop, where there were still some Aniseed Buttons left in the Liquorice Allsorts for when Tent Packer arrived there.

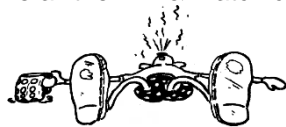
To prevent the runners, & those who had been at the Held CHK for a while, from seizing up, the Hare allowed them to embark on the last section of Trail, while he hung back waiting for No Eye Deer & Juices Flowing. The Pack were advised to cross at the nearby pelican crossing, then head down to Park Road, a back street that's far quieter than the main drag from off of the 'Magic Roundabout', the large one-way system with six smaller roundabout set around it.

The Trail turned on Charles Street, to take the Hash over the next Crossing on the busy Leighton Buzzard Road, the very last section was up through the edge of the car park & through a section of the Water Gardens that are fed by the river Gade. The Trail crossed the river & then headed northward up Waterhouse Street to find the On Inn by the Salvation Army beside the southwestern corner of the now unused Market Square, thankfully none of the Hash signed 'The Pledge' & they cut across the paved area & back to the Full House.

There was time for a quick Beer I the Pub, as well as have the Circle. The Hare was awarded his for a 'Great Trail' of 4 miles for the Keenies on a gloriously sunny day, Mr X would then receive another Hit as My Lil' called him out for as 'If one pair of Texas Shorts drink, ALL pairs of Texas Shorts Drink!' to which he added that "Only two things come from Texas, Queers & Steers & don't see no horns!" Paxo had the last Down-Down for his staring at the Ladies Loos, which are very ornate, almost Salon like & visible through the large windows in the doors.

The Hash moved on to the Banana Leaf to celebrate Chinese New Year & how good was it? After many visits to the Dragon King, this Buffet was a lot different, with the courses being served to you at the tables, no kids coughing & picking things up at any 'self-service counters' Even though some dishes were put in front of the wrong people, we didn't have any "I didn't eat any calamari, so I am not paying for calamari!" types there.

Oh no, this was experience was far better, with piping hot plates & a quality selection of food combinations. Everyone was pretty full by the time all the mix & match courses were devoured. All agreed it will be worth another visit sometime.



Baby

What are we doing for Valentines?

Well I didn't want to tell you before but do you like Paris?

Yes!! ❤️❤️❤️

And Barcelona?

OMG Yes!! 🥰🥰🥰

Okay tonight Champions League at 19:45 PSG Vs Barca

Delivered

Message

